

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DHA-02 /076 W

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R 240856Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3630

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 3955

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIAN REACTION TO ME DEVELOPMENTS

1. THREE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS COMMENTED SEPARATELY TO ME JUNE 23 ON WHAT THEY SAW AS NEGATIVE TREND OF CURRENT ME DEVELOPMENTS. DEPUTY FONMIN AL KHANI REMARKED ON WHAT HE PERCEIVED AS RETREAT IN US POSITION EVIDENT IN MONDALE SPEECH, PARTICULARLY ITS EQUATING "HOMELAND" WITH "ENTITY" AND ITS PREFERENCE FOR LINKAGE WITH JORDAN. HE SAID PALESTINIAN LEADERS WERE PARTICULARLY DISTRESSED BY THIS "BOWING TO ZIONIST PRESSURE." COUNTERED BY REFERRING TO OTHER ASPECTS OF SPEECH SUCH AS WITHDRAWAL AND GENEVA AND MOST IMPORTANT THAT USG DETERMINATION TO MOVE FORWARD REMAINED FIRM. HE SHIFTED GROUND TO ACCUSATION THAT US NOT ENFORCING HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY VIS A VIS ISRAEL AS STRONGLY AS IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

2. DIRECTOR WESTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS JOUAYJATI SPOKE OF GRADUALLY GROWING CONVICTION IN FOREIGN MINISTRY CIRCLES THAT NOTHING WAS GOING TO COME OF CURRENT ARAB
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PEACE POLICIES BECAUSE OF RIGIDITY OF BEGIN. HE SAID SYRIAN REGARD FOR PRESIDENT CARTER REMAINED HIGH AND ADDED THAT AN IMPORTANT RESULT OF CARTER-ASSAD MEETING HAD BEEN THAT ASSAD HAD FINALLY BECOME CONVINCED OF NECESSITY FOR CAREFUL AND COMPLETE PREPARATION IN ADVANCE OF CONVENING GENEVA CONFERENCE. THIS DID NOT MEAN, HOWEVER, THAT CONFERENCE COULD BE INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.

3. DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS JAZZAR SAID SKEPTICISM WAS INCREASING REGARDING PROSPECTS FOR PEACE AND IT WAS BECOMING HARDER FOR SARG TO MAINTAIN ITS STEADY, UNEMOTIONAL LINE OF DESIRING PEACE. "YOU HAVE ABOUT THREE OR FOUR MONTHS," HE ADDED, IMPLYING THAT THEREAFTER SYRIAN POLICY WOULD SHIFT IF THERE WERE NO PROGRESS.

4. COMMENT: ALL THREE OFFICIALS ARE SUPPORTERS OF ASSAD'S "PEACE POLICY" AND I WOULD JUDGE WELL TOWARD THE MODERATE END OF THE SPECTRUM OF SYRIAN OFFICIAL OPINION. PELLETREAU

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DAMASC03955
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770226-0304
Format: TEL
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770620/aaaaarjk.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4d644977-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2039285
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIAN REACTION TO ME DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PGOV, SY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4d644977-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009